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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have got it very much in mind, Sir, that poor men suffer more than rich men; I think, I can understand all that easily."

Desilting of the Thiruvanthipuram Anicut, Cuddalore.

* 75 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state— 11-40 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Thiruvanthipuram Anicut, Cuddalore taluk, South Arcot district, is silted up for the past five years; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken to desilt the same?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) A channel 50 feet wide and 3½ feet deep has been excavated above the anicut, on the left side, to give a clear approach to the supply channel taking off from the anicut. Further, to keep this approach channel and the left margin of the river clear of shoals, proposals for providing additional scour vents for this anicut are under examination by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation)."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" அந்த அணைக்கட்டில் இரண்டு ஆண்டுகளாக மணல் மேடிட்டு தண்ணீர் பாய முடியாமல் இருப்பதால் சுமார் ஆயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலம் சாகுபடியாகாமலிருப்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரிந்திருந்தும் ஏன் துரிதமாக நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கவில்லை ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have already stated that the scheme is under investigation, Sir."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" எவ்வளவு காலமாக இத்திட்டம் பரிசீலனையில் இருக்கிறது ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It has been so all along. Now we are taking very expeditious steps to attend to this problem."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் இதை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவர அரசாங்கம் முயற்சிக்குமா ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It cannot be said, Sir. As early as possible."

Certain cases of alleged suicide in the Kollengode hospital.

* 76 *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have received any news from Kollengode village, Palghat taluk, Malabar, about the alleged suicide by more than 35 persons who had been admitted in the Kollengode hospital some months ago and if so, what were the reasons for the suicide?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the negative.

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" There seems to have been only a few cases of alleged oleander poisoning in that area during the period 22nd March to 18th June 1953."

SRI R. KRISHNAN —" കൊല്ലങ്കോട്ട് എൽ.എഫ്. ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ ഒരു മാതിരി വിഷക്കായ് തിന്നിട്ട് മുപ്പത്തഞ്ചിലധികംപേർ മരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളത് ശരിയായാണെന്നും പട്ടിണി സഹിക്കവയ്യാഞ്ഞിട്ടാണ് അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുതെന്നും പറയുന്നതു വാസ്തവമാണ്; ഗവമ്മേണ്ട് അതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുമോ ?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

Constitution of panchayat boards.

* 77 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state what action the Government have taken in respect of constituting panchayat boards in villages where there are none now?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Government have issued orders recently to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards to proceed with the constitution of new panchayats in the State."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government is prepared to constitute panchayats for villages with a population of 500, consistent with the provisions of the Act? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The provision in the Act is like that. But we have to devise some plan for constituting panchayats for all the villages. At present we have issued orders to constitute panchayats for villages where the population is more than 1,000. After this is completed, we will take up the question of constituting panchayats as contemplated in the Act."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know, Sir, how many minor and major panchayats are functioning in the State? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" About 4,000 class II panchayats and 280 class I panchayats are functioning in the State at present."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" The Act lays down that panchayats should be formed in villages where the population is 500. The Hon. Minister for Local Administration says that they have issued orders to constitute panchayats in villages where the population is 1,000 and above. May I know whether the Government are not violating the provisions contained in the Act and may I know under what provision the Government have issued instructions to constitute panchayats only for villages where the population is 1,000 and above? "